Sugar trade by STC

1152. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has been dealing with sugar trade;

(b) the total amount of investment made by STC on sugar business during the last three years;

(c) the achievement made by STC thereon; and

(d) the projection made or plan formulated on investment, purchase or sale or export of sugar in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) while no investments were made by STC on sugar business during the last three years, L/C limits were, however, used by the Corporation for import of sugar.

(c) Total imports/exports of sugar through STC during the last 3 years were as follows:—

Import	(Quantity Mts)	
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
—	—	4,70,685
Export		
13, 585	46.565	35,000

(d) No projection/plan has been formulated by STC for import/export of sugar during 1996-97 as STC undertakes these operations on the basis of authorisation as and when received from the Government.

Problems of Rubber Units

1153. SHRI BHAGAWAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of Rubber units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to help rubber industry to overcome these problems; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Over the last few months, the rubber consuming industries have been representing against high prices and considerable gap between demand and supply of natural rubber in the domestic market. In order to stabilise the domestic market and ensure adequate availability of rubber at reasonable prices to meet the requirements of the rubber consuming industries in 1995-96, Govt. had allowed import of 38,540 MTs of natural rubber by 30.8.95 at nil duty. Import of natural rubber has also been allowed under Special Import Licence (SIL) since 18.1.95.

निर्धारित समय से पीछे चल रही केन्द्रीय परियोजनाएं

1154. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:** क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 22 फरवरी 1996 की "आब्जर्वर" (दैनिक) में "44 सेन्ट्रल प्रोजेक्ट लैंग्यूशिंग" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस समय निर्माणाधीन परियोजनाओं में से इन 44 परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन पर विशेष ध्यान देने के निर्णय पर विचार कर रही है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और प्रत्येक परियोजना के निर्माण की मूल लागत क्या है तथा उनके निर्माण की वर्तमान अनुमानित लागत क्या है;

(घ) क्या ये परियोजनाएं लागत बढ़ जाने से अनुत्पादक बन जाएंगी; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव): (क) जी हां, दिनांक 30-9-1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन विभाग के प्रबोधन पर केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की 374 परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा के अनुसार केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की 44 परियोजनाएं 10 वर्षों से भी अधिक समय से कार्यान्वयनाधीन थीं।

(ख) सरकार निरंतर रूप से इन परियोजनाओं की प्रगति की समीक्षा कर रही है। ऐसी परियोजनाओं, जिनमें सरकार द्वारा आगामी कार्यान्वयन संभाव्य नहीं है, को आगामी कार्यवाही हेतु पहचाना जा रहा है।

(ग) 44 परियोजनाओं की मूल लागत एवं वर्तमान अनुमानित लागत का ब्यौरा विवरण अनुपत्र में दिया गया है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 176, अनुपत्र सं० 47]

(घ) एवं (ङ) आगामी आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु अनुत्पादक परियोजनाओं की पहचान करने के लिए परियोजनाओं के पुनःप्राथमिकीकरण का कार्य प्रारंभ किया गया है।

Curbing of Child Labour

1155. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Centre to "Spell out steps to curb child labour" in the country as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 22nd February, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is a fact that thousands of children are being exploited by bangle industry owners in Ferozabad and even being sold at "child mandis" in that city; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to liberate children from bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) In response to the writ petition filed by All India Lawyers Forum For Civil Liberties (LFCL), the Supreme Court had directed Union of India to file counter affidavit on the points raised in the writ petition. The writ petition was based on the report appearing in daily newspaper "The Indian Express" dated 23.5.1995 that bonded children were offered for sale at child mandis for work in the glass bangle industry. In this connection, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that adult as well as child labour assemble in the mandis offering themselves for days' employment on settled wages. This phenomenon has been controlled after raids conducted by the district administration and there is no element of forced labour.

(c) Government of Uttar Pradesh has launched a special drive for extensive inspections of factories under various labour laws. A total of 1836 inspections were carried out between 1992 and 1995 and 1696 prosecutions were launched for violation of child labour laws. Apart from the enforcement of child labour laws, a number of steps have also been taken as per the National Child Labour Policy announced in 1987. The Government of India has extended financial assistance for area specific projects for the benefit of child labour working in the glass industry at Ferozabad. Presently, 3,500 children are covered by 40 special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition and stipend of Rs. 100/- per month. Apart from this, assistance is being extended for awareness generation and survey of child labour working in hazardous occupations in the district. Recently, the Central Government has also sanctioned and funded a project proposal for upgradation of technology in the glass industry which will encourage the employment of adult workers in different processes in the glass bangle industry and also make the process cost effective.

The District Administration of Ferozabad is making all possible efforts to improve the economic condition of the affected families through the available financial resources under various developmental schemes such as IRDP,